

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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Z 151319Z APR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8679

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 3319

EXDIS

EUR FOR HARTMAN AND EB FOR J. KATZ

EUR PASS AMBASSADOR GREENWALD ON ARRIVAL

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY BUTZ

STR FOR AMBASSADOR DENT

TREASURY FOR MACDONALD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNTERVAILING PROBLEM

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3289 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: GUNDELACH APPROACHED ME URGENTLY AND  
CONFIDENTIALLY AT NOON APRIL 15 ACTING WITH AGREEMENT OF  
ORTOLI, SOAMES AND LARDINOIS, GUNDELACH STRONGLY URGES  
THAT WE PUT OFF FINAL DECISION ON THE CHEESE COUNTERVAIL-  
ING ISSUE ONE MORE WEEK. HE SAYS THAT IF THE COMMISSION  
MUST DECIDE NOW, ITS RESPONSE TO THE LATEST US POSITION  
IS APT TO BE NEGATIVE WITH SERIOUS POLITICAL SPILL-OVER  
FOR GENERAL US/EC RELATIONS. WHILE HE COULD GIVE NO  
"GUARANTEE", GUNDELACH IS OPTIMISTIC HE CAN GET THE PROBLEM  
SETTLED ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE US IF ALLOWED ADDITION-  
AL TIME. GUNDELACH MUST MEET WITH ORTOLI PRIOR TO COMMIS-  
SION SESSION MORNING APRIL 16 AND REQUESTS AN ANSWER  
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TY. PLEASE INSTRUCT. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH, WHO ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BE TREATED WITH DISCRETION, THE CHEESE COUNTERVAILING ISSUE COULD --IF IT GETS OUT OF HAND -- HAVE EVEN MORE SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES THAN THE CHICKEN WAR OF THE 1960'S. HIS ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY IS THAT IT IS CHARACTERIZED BY: -(A) CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE COMMISSION; (B) CONFUSION AMONG THE EC MINISTERS; BUT (C) HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND WITH ANOTHER WEEKS'S WORK. GUNDELACH EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS APPROACHING US WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND "FULL CONSENT" OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AS WELL AS SOAMES AND LARDINOIS. HE HAD REVIEWED THE MATTER AT LENGTH THIS MORNING WITH THE TWO LATTER COMMISSIONERS. WHILE HE COULD MAKE NO HARD PROMISE, GUNDELACH IS CONSIDERABLY ENCOURAGED. HE BELIEVES THE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE US AND "WOULD NOT EXCLUDE" THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL ACCEPT THE LATEST US REQUEST.

3. GUNDELACH EXPLAINED THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED BECAUSE SEVERAL KEY COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING SOAMES, WILL BE TRAVELLING OR OTHERWISE HEAVILY ENGAGED THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED SOAMES WILL BE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEXICO AND LARDINOIS IS HEAVILY ENGAGED BY THE FRENCH-ITALIAN WINE DISPUTE.)

4. GUNDELACH STRESSED THAT HIS RELATIVE OPTIMISM IS BASED ON THE EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION APRIL 14 AS WELL AS ON INTERNAL EXCHANGES WITHIN THE COMMISSION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION AS CONFUSED BUT POSITIVE ON BALANCE - SOME PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING. OF THE MINISTERS WHO SPOKE ONLY THE FRENCH MADE CLEARLY NEGATIVE NOISES AND, ACCORDING TO GUNDELACH, THEIR TRADE INTEREST IS LIMITED. GERMANY, THE BENELUX COUNTRIES AND DENMARK WERE ALL IN FAVOR OF FURTHER EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THEY HAD INDICATED -- WITH VARYING DEGREES OF CLARITY -- THAT THE US POSITION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED IF ESSENTIAL TO AVOID A CLASH. THE ITALIANS WERE QUIET AND THE BRITISH POSITIVE BUT RESTRAINED. (GUNDELACH THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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IT TACTICALLY WISE THAT THE BRITISH DID NOT GO OVERBOARD IN PUSHING FOR THE US POSITION.)

5. GUNDELACH SAID HE WAS ESPECIALLY HEARTENED BY THE DANISH REACTION. GIVEN THEIR SIGNIFICANT TRADE INTEREST AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH THE US POSITION "AS THE LESSER OF EVILS", THE DANES HAD HELPED SET A POSITIVE TONE IN THE COUNCIL.

6. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, GUNDELACH REQUESTS URGENT WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST FOR MORE TIME. I REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THIS MATTER; EXPLAINED MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESSURES IN WASHINGTON; AND OF COURSE MADE NO COMMENTMENT BEYOND AGREEMENT TO TRANSMIT THE REQUEST AT ONCE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS SOONEST ON THE ANSWER TO BE GIVEN GUNDELACH. HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE BRUSSELS MID-MORNING APRIL 16 FOR A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT IN ENGLAND AND WILL BE BACK THURSDAY EVENING. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE HE WANTS TO MEET WITH ORTOLI WITH THE US RESPONSE IN HAND.MYERSON

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## Message Attributes

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